

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 04514 221746Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-02
OMB-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /069 W
-----044702 221752Z /47

O R 221717Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2479
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PBOR, PN, PQ
SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - PANAMANIAN UNIONS CRITICIZE
GRAHAM

REF: PANAMA 4480

SUMMARY: GOP COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS
AND FOCUS ON ECONOMIC ISSUE RECEIVED MILD PLAY AND NO
COMMENT. AFSCME HAS RELEASED A LETTER FROM JERRY WURF TO
GEORGE MEANY SUGGESTING THAT RECENTLY-DESIGNATED AFL-CIO
ADVISER TO US NEGOTIATORS AL GRAHAM "MAY BE INSENSITIVE" TO
INTERESTS OF PANAMANIAN CITIZEN EMPLOYEES. END SUMMARY.

1. GOP NATIONAL INFORMATION COMMISSION COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING
RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS (REFTEL) DREW MILD COVERAGE
FROM LOCAL MEDIA, AND LITTLE COMMENT. AFTER INITIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT ON NOON TELEVISION NEWS BROADCASTS (FBIS/PANAMA
PA 211858Y), IT WAS REPEATED IN EVENING NEWS WITH LITTLE
EMBELLISHMENT BEYOND ANNOUNCEMENT OF A 6-HOUR MEETING MONDAY
FARALLON BETWEEN TORRIJOS, OTHER GOP LEADERS AND PANAMANIAN
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 04514 221746Z

NEGOTIATORS (FBIS/PANAMA PA 220129Y AND PA 220208Y).

2. COMMUNIQUE WAS PUBLISHED FRONT PAGE, BUT NOT PROMINENTLY,
IN AFTERNOON "REPUBLICA" FOR JUNE 21, AND MORNING "STAR AND
HERALD" FOR JUNE 22. IT WAS LEAD ITEM IN "ESTRELLA".
"MATUTINO" COVERED IT AS USUAL, A FRONT-PAGE REFERENCE TO AN
INSIDE PAGE. "CRITICA" BURIED IT ON PAGE 5.

3. ALSO, CANAL ZONE LOCALS 900 AND 907 OF AFSCME HAVE RELEASED TO PRESS TEXT OF A LETTER FROM AFSCME INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT JERRY WURF TO GEORGE MEANY TAKING EXCEPTION TO DESIGNATION OF ALFRED GRAHAM AS AFL-CIO ADVISER TO US NEGOTIATORS (COPY POUCHED CAMAUR, ARA/PAN). WURF COMMENTED: "THERE IS A PROFOUND CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR TWO AFSCME LOCALS IN THE ZONE...THAT BROTHER AL GRAHAM MAY BE INSENSITIVE TO THE INTERESTS OF THESE WORKERS IN HIS ROLE AS LABOR ADVISER TO THE US NEGOTIATORS. I AM NOT TRYING TO QUESTION GRAHAM'S INTEGRITY, BUT MERELY TO MAKE YOU AWARE OF A REALITY IN THE ZONE--LONG-STANDING AND DEEP-SEATED DISTRUST." WURF ASKS THAT MEANY GIVE HIS PERSONNEL ATTENTION TO REVIEWING "THE PROPOSED LABOR ANNEX TO THE TREATY--ASSURING ADHERENCE TO THE AFL-CIO POLICY ON PANAMA, EQUALLY APPLIED TO ALL WORKERS WHO LIVE OR WORK IN THE CANAL ZONE."

4. "STAR AND HERALD" PUBLISHED FULL TEXT OF LETTER ON FRONT PAGE. "ESTRELLA" AND CRITICA" DID NOT COVER IT. "MATUTINO" CARRIED STORY AS ITS JUNE 22 LEAD; IT DID NOT PUBLISH FULL TEXT OF WURF LETTER, BUT CARRIED ARTICLE APPARENTLY BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH AFSCME LOCALS. THIS REFERRED MORE POINTEDLY THAN LETTER TO GRAHAM'S OPPOSITION, AS HEAD OF CANAL ZONE CLU-MTC, TO PANAMANIAN-CITIZEN UNIONS' EFFORTS ON ISSUES OF LEAVE PARITY, REDUCTION OF SECURITY POSITIONS, AND INTEGRATION OF SCHOOLS AND HOUSING.
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PAGE 03 PANAMA 04514 221746Z

5. COMMENT: SOURCE IN AFSCME DESCRIBED MOOD WITHIN THAT UNION AS CLOSE TO OPENLY REBELLIOUS AT IDEA THAT GRAHAM, WHO HAS FOR YEARS BEEN REGARDED AS HOSTILE TO PANAMANIAN EMPLOYEE INTERESTS, IS TO SERVE AS THEIR PRESUMPTIVE INTERLOCUTOR WITH US NEGOTIATORS. IT WAS THIS MOOD THAT LED AFSCME TO DECIDE TO RELEASE TEXT OF WURF'S LETTER TO LOCAL PRESS.
GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, INTERNATIONAL CANALS, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR POLICY LINE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA04514
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770223-0290
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770631/aaaabasx.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4b84e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PANAMA 4480
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2071376
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - PANAMANIAN UNIONS CRITICIZE GRAHAM
TAGS: ELAB, PBOR, PN, PQ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4b84e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
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22 May 2009
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